

Syrian Arab Republic

presentation

EU- Syria Relations

- Since 1978, The Syrian Arab Republic has been liable to establish good relations with the European Union under the scope of a cooperation agreement .
- Considering the fact that according to Barcelona declaration where the main object is to secure stability and development of the region ,these relations are in a continuous improving and deepen under the umbrella of the euro-Mediterranean Partnership.
- Also the Syrian Arab Republic is stressing on the support of this development and is keen to execute the economic and legal reforms envisaged during the recent years.

Deliberating the Market

Several steps and regulations were set up during this period to create suitable environment for the competition in the Syrian market, and that by opening and deliberating the market, and giving all possible support to the private sector.

Executed procedures & steps

Here below, we outline some of the executed procedures:

- Approvals were granted to private insurance companies.
- New decree was issued allowing the establishment of holding companies.
- Customs reforms and new regulations.
- Allowing private sector the import of several commodities which were previously restricted.
- Currency exchange business decree.
- Liberation of prices progressively
- Approvals were granted to private Banks and said Banks were effectively opened .

- Encouraging investment by amending investment law and granting additional facilities.
- Establishing industrial zones and cities .
- Concluding agreements of free trade with Arab Countries and some foreign countries.
- Establishing new Free Zones and developing existing ones.
- Renew Trade Law issued in 1949 , the new version is submitted now to the Syrian authorities for approval.

Action Plan

Furthermore, Syria is planning an action plan within the scope of the preparations held to enter the free trade region which will be established around the Mediterranean during the year 2010 and insist on the execution of this action plan.

Till to date Syria has executed the following procedures and steps relating to competition.

- *Laws Customization*

According to the plan setup previously the named committee to study the customization of laws and rules this committee had customized the intellectual property law and competition law.

- *Competition Law & Anti-competitive Practices Law*

This committee had already prepared the competition & Anti-competitive practices law with conformity to the Euro-Syrian Association Agreement requirements, said law is submitted now to the Syrian authorities for approval.

This law in its terms and conditions considered the specific national needs and considerations to lead to social market system goals, developing countries environment.

Competition & Anti-Competitive practices in the Syrian Law

The law consists of 8 chapters covering 34 articles.

Chapter I: *Objectives, definitions and scope of application.*

The law is applied to all enterprises, natural persons, etc... except the sovereign acts of state itself, or enterprises compelled or supervised by the state.

The purpose is to secure the fundamental commodities or services as an example electricity and water.

Chapter II *Free market prices confirms that the general market rules rebased on free prices and are determined according to the free market rules.*

1. Fundamental commodities & services are determined by a decree.
2. Some commodities and services relating to sectors or areas where price competition is very restricted.
3. Prices that could be exception determined by a decree to face a special temporary case or environment.

Chapter III: *restrictive agreements and abuse of dominant position.*

The law prohibited all anti-competitive restrictive agreements or arrangements and the abuse of a dominant position.

Chapter IV: *acts or behavior and anti-competitive practices.*

Prohibited all acts and behavior and anti-competitive practices.

Chapter V: *Mergers*

Mergers should be approved by competition authority when said merger share exceeds 30% of market business.

Chapter VI: *Establishment , role and structure of the competent authority.*

The competent authority will be an independent entity, a council is established within said authority named “Competition Council” consisting of 11 members named for a period of 4 years.

Council president should be a judge the council establish the status, rules and conditions.

Chapter VII: *Sanctions and relief*

Stated the imposed sanctions, fines, imprisonment, etc...

Chapter VIII: *Final and interim rules*

Terms of law implementation to businesses before law issuance .

Assistance Required

Syria

wishes the

European Union

assistance

in the following objectives:

A- Required Training

1. Competition entity mechanism

Planning the competition entity working mechanism of competition organization and to benefit from others experience in this concern.

2. Competition Law Implementation

A training program oriented to the employees of competition organization to apply competition law.

3. Investigation related to competition

Specialized training in the field of investigation related to competition and the relation with other organizations or directorates in this concern.

4. Market Economic Analysis

Training program on competition economics and economic analysis oriented to economic analysts of the market and the economic research organization employees.

B . *Support link*

The assistance in securing a connection possibly through intranet or internet with supporting centers securing the consultation for problems incurred upon competition law implementation.

C . *Seminars & Workshops*

- ***Implementation mechanism***

specialized in the implementation mechanism of competition law.

- ***customer protection***

to benefit from other competition organizations experience .

- ***Product Quality & Quality Control***

To participate to seminars and workshops relating to products quality and quality control to support the national product competition power in the free trade region markets.

Thank

you

for

Attention